

CHAPTER 132

October 1, 2011

"...Seven... o'fucking... Clock... I can't take this; let them give me an F. I need sleep dammit!"

Justin, Chie, and Yukiko were all walking to school together. See, Chie always walked to school with Yukiko, even before meeting Justin. And once Justin and Chie started dating, those two started walking together. So in the end, they just sort of combined their efforts and formed one group. Not that Justin's presence would be entirely missed this morning, what with him complaining about the beginning of school again. No one liked it anymore than he did, but at least they weren't bitching and moaning about it every twelve seconds. They couldn't be too mad at Justin though, because he was just saying what they were all thinking. Chie sighed as they continued to walk towards their destination.

"Put on your iPod or something; that'll wake you up." She suggested, hoping that Justin snapping out of his half asleep daze would make him less grumpy and more tolerable. Justin shook his head and groaned though. As much as he would LOVE to be blasting music in his head to banish the thoughts of having to sit in those desks for days at a time again, he couldn't. No, I don't mean something was holding him back or anything, I mean he physically could not deafen himself with his iPod right now.

"Can't. Batteries dead." Justin and Chie sighed with disappointment. Yukiko didn't seem to mind though. Not that she was a fan of Justin's bitching or anything, she just generally let everyone do their own thing. She never seemed to be fazed by anything; let alone Justin swearing up a shitstorm. Everyone had been desensitized to it by this point honestly.

"So how did your summer work go, Chie?" Yukiko questioned after a moment, trying to make some small talk. And since they WERE on the topic of going back to school, seemed like a fair thing to talk about. Given the look on Chie's face though, she'd rather not talk about it. She sighed a bit, placing her hands on her hips as though deep in thought. In actuality, the last thing she wanted to do was think. That's why summer vacation ending and school starting was such a pain, remember?

"So... Holden Caulfield got expelled? I don't understand what the point of any of that was. All he did was complain." Chie spoke aloud, confused about the book. What was the story? All she got was that this guy went around smoking and getting drunk and just generally bitching about everything. Who even likes a guy like tha-

...

Wait...

"Oh yeah, *Catcher in the Rye* is just awful. People try to justify it as this wonderful masterpiece, but it's just a guy bitching and moaning about everyone. You know the guy who killed John Lennon blamed *Catcher in the Rye*? Said the book told him to do it or something. Fucking psychopath." Justin mused aloud with slight anger. Chie just groaned a bit; it was a bad enough book without hearing there was a possibility she might want to kill John Lennon now. Good thing someone beat her to the punch. It didn't matter anyway, they had finally arrived at school. And from the looks of it Yu and Yosuke were already there, talking about SOMETHING.

"Good morning." Yukiko called out to the others. Yu and Yosuke turned towards the three approaching them with smiles on their face. As much as they hated school, at least they'd all be sitting next to each other again, so that was a plus.

"Oh hey you made it. Man, summer vacation felt like so long. I actually got lost on the way here." Yosuke remarked, probably exaggerating a little bit. Plus, Justin being the American here couldn't help but give Yosuke a funny look, like he was nuts to think this was a long vacation. It was two months shorter than the summer vacation Justin was used to. This was a SHORT vacation if anything. Yukiko nodded with agreement; felt like summer had lasted ages. And that wasn't necessarily a bad thing. Just made it harder to adjust to coming back to school.

"The vacation was pretty long."

"Not THAT long. Sheesh..." Chie remarked sarcastically. She could not comprehend how Yosuke could have possibly lost his way already. Though to be fair, Justin probably would have gotten lost if he didn't know the way to Chie's house, where they had all grouped up together. He could NEVER forget the pathway there after all. Yosuke shrugged before they all turned to walk through the school gates and to their homeroom again. Or at least they had until an all too familiar figure stepped into view. Justin wasn't sure what was worse; the fact that Naoto was here, or the fact that it seemed she was waiting for them, given the way she just sort of stepped out of cover.

"Good morning." She addressed the group. Justin just sighed and held his wrists out with mockery, as though to dare her to put the handcuffs on him. He wasn't sure what he did, but he was sure the only reason she could have to be here was to arrest SOMEONE. And let's face it, who else would get arrested at this school besides Justin? Naoto passed him a confused look, then eventually a glare as she got what he was implying. She eventually just rolled her eyes and turned her attention back to the others, who were much more shocked by her sudden appearance.

"Y-You...!? You're that, uh... pint-size detective!" Yosuke remarked after a while, clearly having forgotten her name... Or was he around when she introduced herself

in the first place. Now that Justin thought about it, Yosuke and Chie were busy arguing when she first introduced herself; and Justin doubted she had mentioned her name a second time after that. It was so long ago that he didn't really remember. It was such an irrelevant detail of life after all. Regardless of whether they had been formally introduced however, Naoto sure as hell took offense to that. Justin decided to make a mental note that calling her a pint-sized detective pissed her off. That seemed like useful knowledge.

"I beg your pardon!? My name is Naoto. Please, don't give people bizarre nicknames you make up on the spot." Naoto scolded Yosuke. She wasn't just annoyed by the comment either; she was fucking livid. As though she had never been more offended by anything in her life. Of course, that wasn't true in the slightest. She HAD met Justin after all.

"If you insist, my dear Watson." Justin mocked her, donning his best British accent. So basically just his accent. Once again, everyone seemed impressed by the authenticity of his accent, still not having really caught on that Justin was actually British. It wasn't something Justin was going to tell anyone. Which is strange, because he was always more proud of being English than he was American. Perhaps it was just to avoid confusion; perhaps he just wanted to avoid the tea and crumpet jokes. Whatever the reason, he just kept quiet on the matter. Naoto continued to glare at Justin with great intensity. It was a wonder she hadn't arrested the guy for disturbing the peace or something by this point. Though apparently it seemed she just didn't have any authority on the matter; or at least, not anymore.

"My cooperation with the police has come to an end. However, there are aspects of the case with which I remain unconvinced. There are some family-related issues as well, so I've decided to stay here for the present. From today forth, I'll be a first-year at your high school. And I felt that I should at least introduce myself to you all. I trust our relations will be cordial, Senpai." She explained, glaring slightly at Justin, as though to make it painfully clear to him that comment was directed specifically to him. *Cordial. Right. Because after calling me and my sister a murderer, harassing my sister about her home life, and trying to arrest me for tossing a cigarette on the ground, I'M the one being uncordial.* Naoto gave a bow of her head before departing from the group's presence, entering the school building.

"Senpai...? That detective boy's... our underclassman?" Chie spoke up with shock and puzzlement. That was certainly not expected. Though perhaps it was more that a girl who was smarter than most of the people present there was actually a grade lower than them. That sure as hell wasn't doing much for her self-esteem. Justin groaned and rolled his eyes.

"Can't wait to get arrested for starting a food fight."

“Man, school’s as dull as ever. With the case closed, the days feel so empty all of a sudden...”

The school day had ended after many an hour had passed by sluggishly. Not that Justin could really complain about how dreadfully boring their classes were when he had gone back to his usual schedule of not paying attention and doing something stupid in class. This time he was making rubber band balls. At one point he had even threw it at the front of the classroom, causing it to bounce off the chalk board, and through sheer luck, right over to Yukiko’s desk. She was more than willing to pass it back over to Justin before she got in trouble. Not that Kashiwagi seemed to really care. Hell, Justin was sure it had gone right over her head. Literally and figuratively. Chie did give him quite the talking to afterwards though. That was a little stupid, even by Justin’s standards.

“C'mon Yosuke, everything went back to normal. It's a good thing!” Chie objected, trying to justify their dull, boring, everyday schedule. Justin didn’t think anyone was objecting to that though; school was just always boring as all. With the case, they had stuff to do and worry about, evidence to gather and all that stuff. He wasn’t saying he wished there were more murders or anything like that. At least, Justin hoped so. He was just saying it was a bit boring having nothing to do with their time now but study. Or be a class clown in Justin’s case, apparently.

“I didn't mean it that way. It's just...”

“Hey, we're stopping by Junes later, right? Why don't we ask Naoto-kun to join us?” Yukiko questioned, only to be met by a very intense glare from Justin. Clearly she didn’t know the stunt Naoto had pulled, otherwise no one would want to even be near that girl. Justin was actually considering bringing it up to the others, but given that she was entirely right about Maya killing someone, he figured it was probably not a good idea to smear her name for something she was right about. Besides, if anyone brought it up to Maya... Well... You can realize why that’s a bad idea. “Oh, I just thought... Since he doesn't know anyone yet, he must feel lonely...” Yukiko tried to justify her comment when she noticed how furious Justin was right now. She didn’t know WHY he was pissed, but that was never a good thing.

“Didn't he say he came here to help out with the murder case? With the case closed, he's just an ordinary guy now. And if you think about it, that makes him a transfer student... just like us.” Yosuke mused aloud, as though sympathizing with the girl. And that only pissed him off. ESPECIALLY when he compared her to them; saying she was just the same. *Just the same? Nowhere near.*

“Oh yeah, except for the part where she’s a huge asshole, yeah just like us.” Justin remarked snidely. All eyes feel on him passing him a funny look. Partially because of the hypocrisy, partially because they still didn’t get why he hated Naoto so much. Or why he kept calling her she. That seemed like kind of a prick move to call a guy a girl, or vice-versa. Just like Chie and the bro with a vagina remark. “I know what I

said, don't give me that look." Justin countered, knowing full-well he was an asshole too. Just not as big an asshole as her.

"Hello, Senpai!" Rise remarked as she joined the group. Not a single person noticed though, choosing to ignore her greeting. She seemed sort of annoyed as they continued to talk like she wasn't there. She'd have you know she was a celebrity at one point, not a fucking ghost. They could see her just fine!

"Maybe he transferred here out of plain stubbornness. 'Cause he doesn't seem like he's only in it for fun. Alright, let's see if he wants to hang out with us." Yosuke decided, completely ignoring what Justin wanted. Justin practically ripped the hair out of his head at that. Why was it his opinion never counted for anything. This was a legitimate asshole they were looking at; it wasn't even Justin's tendency to be a dick to everyone doing it this time. There was no way in hell they were hanging out with her. Absolutely not!

Okay maybe once. BUT I REFUSE TO ENJOY IT!

"A celebrity coming to school is already a surprise, but a detective is even rarer. I'm a little curious to see what his family's like, too." Chie spoke up with curiosity. Who the hell cared about Naoto's family? Seriously. Five bucks said she lived with her grandfather or something. That's what most detective types did, right?

"Oh speak of the Devil, there's the little guy." Yosuke pointed out, spotting an all too familiar purple hat as he went turned his gaze down a hallway. Justin had to briefly wonder how long she had been there. Or what she was doing. Seemed she was talking to a couple of girls, about what, he didn't know. But given that she had her back pinned to the wall, he was going to guess they approached her. And she wasn't too pleased about it. Justin took a couple steps forward to listen in on their conversation. He wanted to hear this for some inexplicable reason. Perhaps to gather any possible ammunition he could to use against her.

"You dunno the area yet, right? C'mon, we'll show you around." One of the girls spoke up with interest. And when I say interest, I mean 'interest.' Because Justin had forgotten that apparently not only could no one tell Naoto was a girl, they couldn't even say 'he' was a feminine guy. In fact, apparently he was a hot stud or something given the way the girls seemed to be swooning over him.

"There's probably tons of places to hang out that only we'd know about." Justin began to chuckle with amusement at this entire situation. The others could hear, but they weren't entirely sure what Justin was laughing at. All eyes fell on him with curiosity, trying to decipher what he had found so humorous.

"What's so funny?" Yosuke questioned.

"They don't realize they're hitting on a girl." Justin smirked, trying to hold back his fit of laughter. Everyone else just sort of glared at him though. This whole 'Naoto is

a girl,' thing was really starting to get on their nerves fast. They weren't sure if Justin honestly believed that stuff or if he was just doing that to mock Naoto; but whatever the reason, it was degrading.

"That won't be necessary. I'm not interested in "hanging out," and neither am I interested in you two." Naoto countered the two girls aggressively, trying to get them to leave her presence. Justin raised his eyebrow nodding his head a bit, smile on his face slowly degrading. Naoto might have been a complete bitch, but he did have to admire the way she managed to break the ice. By taking the ice pick and jabbing it through those fucker's heads instead, that is.

"Huh? Hey, what did you say!?"

"What's with that attitude!? We're just trying to be friendly!" Oh yes, it seemed that Naoto had rustled quite a few jimmies with that remark. To be fair, if it wasn't obvious those two were just slutting it up, it would have been really douche and rude. But when you're a girl and girls are trying to get in your pants, well; you'd probably want them to get away as quickly as possible too. Yosuke just shook his head a bit, annoyed that Naoto had been here for all of one day and she had already managed to stir up a shit storm.

"Geez... Way to make an impression. Yo, Naoto-kun. How's it going?" Yosuke muttered before approaching the group. Perhaps someone else's presence would deter the girls from continuing their attempts at perverting Naoto. At least; Justin's presence perhaps. It was still pretty common knowledge that Justin was a bit of a renegade. A very easily angered renegade. Fucking Americans, right? The girls eyes widened with surprise and fear as they all approached Naoto; even Justin. And that fear only doubled as they heard a second voice coming from behind. Seemed Kanji had decided to join the party too.

"H-Hey guys. 'Sup?"

"Uh, well, we'll be going now..." One of the girls declared, realizing they were in deep shit the moment a delinquent like Kanji had showed up. Better to run now and risk survival than get the last word, right? And within moments they quickly walked off, swiftness to their pace as they rounded the corner. Kanji passed the girls a funny look as they walked by him, not sure what was going on. All he knew was he spotted the others and Naoto. Naoto grinned a bit, tipping her head and hat in gratitude for the services the others had provided. Even if she could have gotten those girls to leave on her own. After all, she DID have a gun in her pocket. The benefits of working with the police, eh?

"So we meet again. May I help you?" Naoto questioned, eyes darting from person to person, trying to decipher their reason for being here right now. All she saw was smiles; save perhaps from Justin who refused to look in her general direction and had his arms crossed. She was going to guess he wasn't a very willing participant in

whatever it was the others wanted. Her suspicions were only confirmed when Chie actually told her what they were here for.

"Hey, Naoto-kun. If you're not doing anything after school, wanna come with us?" Chie questioned enthusiastically, curious of Naoto would like to join their ranks for the evening. And by that I mean chie wanted to ask her a shit load of questions. Like if she had ever met Bruce Willi- Wait, wrong prick. Forget what I just said. Naoto just seemed flabbergasted by the offer though. Which was strange, because she didn't really seem all that flattered by those other two girls offering the same thing. Though to be fair, those girls WERE whores, so it's alright.

"Come with... You mean me?" Naoto questioned with surprise. She seemed almost pleasantly surprised by the offer. And this was coming from the group she thought housed multiple murderers. *But fuck that, because friendship overcomes everything, right?* Sarcasm aside, however, her satisfied expression soon faded away as she realized she really could not take these people up on their generosity. "...Perhaps another time. I have some things to mull over." Naoto remarked with disappointment.

"Things to mull over?" Rise questioned, not really understanding what she could possibly be talking about. It couldn't be the Hanged Man murder case, could it? That was already and done with; the police had already made an official statement and everything. So unless there was paperwork or something to be done, which probably wouldn't be in Naoto's jurisdiction anyway, it seemed that wasn't it. Naoto nodded a bit, confirming that was indeed what she had said.

"I must go straight home today. I promised my Grampa so." Naoto explained slightly. Justin immediately turned and did a slight fist pump. Look who was the detective now. *Cole Phelps, detective at law,, at your services.*

"Called it!" Justin muttered under his breath with excitement. Chie passed him a slight confused look, having been the only one standing close enough to him to hear what he had mumbled. She didn't know what it was he had apparently called, but he seemed pretty damn satisfied with his deduction.

"Oh well... That's that, then. Let's hang out some other time."

"Man, did you see Naoto's attitude...? He sure blew his debut at school... Is he gonna be okay at Yasogami?"

The group had all gathered at the Junes, at their 'secret headquarters.' Though it wasn't really their headquarters anymore, would it hurt so much to pretend they were? It was kind of nostalgic sitting around the table here with the others. Reminded Justin of some bitter times; but there was a reason they called it 'bittersweet.' *Just like old times, eh?*

"Told you she was an asshole." Justin remarked with sarcastic pride. He was going to rub that in everyone's faces as much as he possibly could. Not that the others necessarily agreed, but hey; Justin did sort of have the advantage here. The most they've seen of Naoto so far depicted her being kind of a bitch. Could be worse than they hoped. "She'll be fine, as much as it kills me to say it. Remember MY debut?" Everyone nodded with agreement, to Justin's displeasure. It was hard to argue with that logic. *Dammit you people, I was joking. Don't agree with me!*

"He is different, but he has this... mysterious air around him that draws your attention." Yukiko mused out loud, trying to figure out what it was about Naoto that seemed so off to her. Probably the part where she was a girl trying to pretend she was a guy. That was pretty strange. Yosuke's eyebrow curved up, his interest peaked at the remark Yukiko made. He had taken that a completely different way.

"Whoa, Yukiko, I never knew... You like younger guys?" Everyone passed Yosuke a strange glance, as though to say 'what the hell is wrong with you?' Why would you ask someone that, let alone someone you know is in a relationship. Yu and Yukiko passed each other a glance. Well there was only one way to find that out.

"When was your birthday again?" Yu questioned with curiosity. He probably should have known this; what with him calling Justin out on not knowing Chie's birthday and all, but whatever. Shit happens, and he was a hypocrite. He could accept that.

"December 8th."

"Yes she does." Yu remarked turning away from Yukiko. Seemed she hadn't figured that was the intention of Yu asking when her birthday was, given the slight gasp coming out of her mouth and her cheeks turning bright red. Almost red enough to match her cardigan.

"Naoto-kun said he has 'things to mull over,' but he's gotta be talking about the murder case." Chie interrupted, bringing up what many of them had been thinking about. What could Naoto possibly need to mull over when the murder cases were over? Last Justin checked, there wasn't a lot of crime around Inaba. Just Kurt's little black market tobacco ring. And maybe that guy who had sold Justin a gun; that was kind of illegal. BUT OTHER THAN THAT.

"He's some ace detective, right? I bet he's not satisfied... even though the case is closed." Yosuke reasoned. That seemed the best explanation for why Naoto was still musing over the criminally natured. That is, it seemed the best explanation if you weren't Justin or Maya. She was probably trying to figure out a way to get Maya in a cell or something. Not that she'd ever succeed. Justin was being literal when he said over his dead body. He'd make a last stand if he needed to. He wouldn't of course; but he was committed to it if it ever came down to that.

"That's true... but..." Chie began to muse, though she couldn't seem to force up the words she was thinking. She sighed slightly with disappointment and defeat. All this talk about the murder case had reminded her of what was not anymore; and that was the Investigation Team. They were just a group of misfit teens now; nothing more. "This place isn't our "special headquarters" anymore... Eh, let's talk about something else." Chie pleaded for the topic to be changed. No one objected to that.

"Isn't the class trip coming up soon? Um... Where are we going...?" Yosuke spoke up. Justin just raised his eyebrow in curiosity. He didn't know that there was a class trip coming up. Damn, he really should pay some attention in class. But why would he do that when he had rubber bands? *Don't be ridiculous brain; you're making sense again. Quit while you're ahead.* Maya just sighed a bit, resting her cheek against the palm of her hand. A class trip meant everyone was going to be gone for the day, right? That meant she was going to be home alone again... And she wasn't going to have Yosuke backing her up with those wicked girls that mocked her behind her back at work. She should stand up for herself, but she didn't want to cause trouble just because her feelings were hurt. She had done it but a few days earlier, and look what happened there? Not again. Not now, not ever.

"Tatsumi Port Island. I heard it's an artificial island that faces the ocean. It's a pretty big city." Yukiko explained to the group. Justin and Maya had no idea where or what that was, but it seemed most everyone else did. Especially Rise, who had gotten a little wide-eyed at the mention of the island's name. She seemed excited at the very least anyway.

"Huh? Port Island? I did tons of shoots there. It's just beyond the Moonlight Bridge, yeah? Should be lots of places to hang out there." Rise spoke with enthusiastic admiration for Port Island. Justin only cared about the lots of places to hang out part though. The camping trip was complete shit, so HOPEFULLY this turned out much better. Chie just groaned though as Rise praised the place. That was not a good sign in the slightest. Justin prepared himself for the bombshell she was about to drop on the group.

"Uh, actually... we may not have any time to goof off during this trip. I heard the school board is changing the trip's schedule this year. The idea is, we're gonna visit a private school there. Like, to have local and urban students interact or something. It'll be all about studying and serious business... Yuck." Chie remarked with disgust. The only one at the table who didn't groan at that was Yukiko, who had absolutely no problem going on a school trip to learn something. Either that or she just wasn't one to complain. Both seemed like viable explanations.

"Ugh... They're totally missing the point of a class trip." Rise groaned, her hopes and dreams for this class trip crushed in a matter of seconds. She knew there was supposed to be a class part to the class trip; but there was also supposed to be a

FUN part to that class trip. You just had to turn the c on its side, take the l, put it in front... do a bunch of other complex shit- LOOK, IT SPELLS FUN, ALRIGHT!?

“What kinda place is this private school?” Yosuke questioned after a moment, wanting to know if they were at least going to go to a FUN private school. Because you couldn’t spell private school without fun. Unless you knew how to spell that is.

“I heard it's really good. They have nice buildings and everything. But it's closed on the day we're going there, so they're going the extra mile to make this work. They want us to tour some factories on the second day, and then we're coming back on the third day.” Chie explained how the trip was going to work to everyone involved. Well on the bright side, they were going to stay in a hotel right? Sounded like that could be fun, what with having electricity and all. He was going to see that this trip was fun in SOME regard if it killed him. Even if it meant turning that hotel upside down. Besides, not like they couldn’t all meet in the same hotel room and have a party or something. Unless the teacher’s thought girls had cooties and separated the genders again. Because apparently all teenagers thought about at that age was sex. True if you were a guy.

“That's not different from a social studies field trip! Urgh... I didn't want to know that...” Yosuke groaned, not very satisfied with what he was hearing. This was just going to be the camping trip all over again, he could tell. Just minus the waterfalls and the bathing suits and with more actual studying. Basically it was going to be school, but they slept in a hotel at night instead of at home. Oh joy.

“Can't expect much from a school-sponsored trip, I guess.” Kanji reasoned, shrugging his shoulders. “Well, we’ll be around, so if it starts to drag we can ditch.” Kanji suggested. Justin raised his forehead off of its resting place from the table, eyes alit. Brilliant, they were going to get lost in the city; but that still sounded better than looking at a factory for 5 hours. They’d be running through the urban jungle.

“I'll show you guys around!” Rise spoke up with glee and excitement. All those years and show business were starting to pay off. For once, SHE would be the one who knew everything. She would be the one to navigate the Investigation Team in such a matter as to maximize fun output. As if she didn’t navigate for the team on a regular basis anyway. Not anymore though, Justin supposed; what with there being no real reason to go back into the television. Except for shits and giggles he supposed.

“But we're in different years...” Yosuke pointed out, figuring Rise couldn’t even show them around if she wanted to. He should have learned by now that the school likes to do whatever it can to save a pretty penny. Funny; Justin would have thought they’d still have a budget with them increasing tuition like a motherfucker on a regular basis. The greed of some people never ceased to amaze Justin.

"Oh, didn't you know? The excursion will be like the campout. They're going to combine the first and second years. Since student enrollment is down and they're low on funds, they've cut the excursion back to once every two years." Yukiko explained to Yosuke how a budget worked. She also had to say the dreaded C word. No one should ever mention the campout. Ever. That was just an all-around disaster. People still wouldn't let it go that Justin had gotten drunk that night. It was one time for fuck's sake, and you never know if you don't try, right?

"Well, at least we won't be bored with you around, Senpai." Kanji shrugged and sighed, trying to look on the bright side of all of this. Though if his upperclassmen were the only bright side to this trip, Kanji was in for a world of disappointment. Unless by that he meant he was expecting Justin to start shit. Which he most likely would. *Good place to put your trust, Kanji.*

"Gosh, I'm trying to remember the last time I went to Port Island and I wasn't working..." Rise giggled with excitement. Even if this was pretty much a social studies field trip, she knew how to get around. This would be fun one way or another. "This'll be great!"

"I wish I could be that positive about it... Doesn't this seem like a pain in the ass to anyone else?" Yosuke remarked, trying to see if anyone else was dreading this as much as him. Justin and Maya immediately shot their hands into the sky with complete synchronization. Everyone sort of looked at Maya weird though. She wasn't going on this trip, how could this possibly be a pain in the ass to HER of all people. It couldn't be how.

"What? You think that shit doesn't go down here when you're gone?" Maya remarked with slight disappointment, sorrow, and annoyance. The others all shrugged it off with the exception of Yosuke, who had actually took her words a little deeper to hear than the others. 'When you're gone.' What was going on when they left that Maya wasn't looking forward to their departure? He was going to need to look into the matter; because he thought he had a real good idea what it was. Besides from being lonely that is. But Maya was used to that when she was homeless for a good year, her only real company being her therapist.

"Some people were against the proposition, but it's been decided. Oh, and guess who's idea it was? King Moron's. It's just the kind of thing he'd come up with..." Chie spoke up with annoyance with this entire trip. Or at least, annoyance that Marooka was still torturing them even in death. Justin just groaned and rolled his eyes. Was it so hard for everyone to use his real name now that he was dead? *Yeah he was still a moron and a douche, but let's show some respect for the deceased, okay?*

"Nooo... King Moron...! Why must you torture us from beyond the grave...!?" Yosuke shouted needlessly dramatically to the heavens, as though someone had just taken his first born child and spilt its blood all over the sidewalk. You know. Like the Egyptians. Hell, he had screamed loud enough to attract Teddie over from his place

across the food court working. Lesson to Yosuke, don't ever shout. A Teddie's vision is based on sound. Don't make a sound, and it can't see you.

"Noooo... King Moron...!" Teddie mirrored Yosuke's shout as he approached the table, still in his bear suit. Yosuke seemed almost infuriated by Teddie's not at all intentional mockery of Yosuke's joke. Besides, shouldn't he still be working? Really, so should Maya, but you know how that worked. The electronics section was always dead anyway.

"You don't even know who that is." Kanji remarked bluntly, shooting Teddie down. He was just repeating whatever he heard, like a small child learning his first words. Really, that was an apt description for anything Teddie did though. He was clueless about pretty much everything, just trying to imitate the people around him. That's where all the scoring shit came from in the first place, after all.

"Hey, tell me more about this trip. Where is Port Island? What's there?" Teddie decided to play a game of twenty questions. Yosuke decided to counter that by declaring the beginning of a game he like to call 'shut up and get back to work before I fire your ass and kick you out of my house, you lazy, perverted, mooching asshole.'

"Get back to work, will ya?"

"Well, even though the class trip is coming up, it's still a ways away. What should I do until then...?" Chie mused aloud, trying to figure out how to best spend her freetime before being enslaved for three days. It was going to be hell when they left for this trip; even if she supposed it would be better than any graded work. Justin's eyebrow raised in a slightly sensual manner as she pondered how to spend her freetime.

"I can think of a few things." Chie's face turned bright red at the innuendo. That was... really out of character. All eyes fell on Justin with slight shock and embarrassment. Was this really the best place to be doing that shit? Maya didn't even give a shit by this point, just sighing as she stared at the tips of her nails, checking for dirt or something. Point is, she was over it. "Them Crooked Vultures Rock Band DLC comes out tomorrow. You, me, Maya."

"Dammit Justin, stop doing that!" Chie shouted at him, knowing full well that he only did that to fluster her then catch her off guard for jumping the gun. Justin laughed hysterically at her embarrassment, giving her a light shove from his seat beside her. At least she was a good sport about it and hadn't hit him yet. At least she got that he wasn't really perving it up. Kanji shook his head after that awkward exchange.

"Well, it's not like we got much to do here in the first place... Man is just an animal trying to figure out how to kill time through his days..." Kanji recited, a deep look in

his eyes as though he were dead serious. He couldn't be, right? That... That made no sense at all. What did man being an animal have to do with killing time? Maybe if he said man was a knife or something that would make sense, but... An animal? No, doesn't work that way Kanji.

"Huh. You made that sound like you were being philosophical... Yet it made absolutely no sense." Chie laid down a burn on Kanji. Kanji only seemed flustered by his apparent lack of philosophical skills. Perhaps she should leave it to Shakespeare here. And speaking of Shakespeare...

"I journey through the desert of the mind with no hope. I found low. I drift along the ocean, dead lifeboats in the sun and come undone. Pleasantly caving in, I come undone." Justin recited. It got a whole bunch of funny looks from everyone, though only one applause. Seemed Yosuke was the only one who got what Justin was trying to do. And that was to out nonsense Kanji.

"Sorry Kanji, I think Justin's got you beat on the nonsense scale."

"Well of course I do. I'm Justin goddamn Tylor. I always have Kanji beat on the nonsense scale."